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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Craspedacusta sowerbii Lankester, 1880 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Olindiidae): New record in Minas Gerais state, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: Records of the freshwater hidrozoan *Craspedacusta sowerbii* remain scarce to Brazil. This note reports the occurrence C. sowerbii in an artificial limestone lake, at Prados, Minas Gerais, representing the second record of the species in the state over the last 72 years.

Craspedacusta sowerbii is a freshwater hydrozoan with fixed minute polyp and free swimming medusa stage (Schwarzbold *et al.* 2010). The jellyfish is carnivorous feeding on zooplankton, fish eggs and invertebrate larva (Dumont 1994).

The species has a worldwide distribution, being extensively recorded in temperate and subtropical regions in all continents except Antarctica (Jankowsky *et al.* 2008), with few records in tropical areas, and often found in artificial freshwater lakes, water reservoirs, rivers and lakes (Moreno-Leon and Ortega-Rubio 2009).

In Brazil, *C. sowerbii* has been recorded in natural and artificial lakes in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, São Paulo, Goiás, Tocantins, Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul (Schwarzbold *et al.* 2010, Silva and Roche 2007). In Minas Gerais there is a single record in a fish tank in Belo Horizonte in 1939 (Sawaya 1957). The objective of this note is report the occurrence of *C. sowerbii* in a distinct artificial environment in the state of Minas Gerais.

We collected manually on the surface of the water seven specimens of *C. sowerbii* (Figure 1) in an artificial calcareous lake, known as Lagoa Azul (Figure 2) Prados, Minas Gerais state (21°03'27" S, 44°04'47" W) in April 2011, at an altitude of 950 m above sea level.

The lake had been formed over 15 years (max. depth 12 m, max. length 120 m and average diameter 70 m) due to flooding by overflow with groundwater after exploitation of limestone in the area. Living medusae were sent to Dr. Fabio Lang da Silveira (Universidade de São Paulo, IB/USP) to confirm identification. One specimen was sent and deposited in the cnidarian collection of Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP 1484).

The presence of *C. sowerbii* in an artificial lake may have two possible explanations: an underground communication with Elvas River, which is near the mining area, or it is an introduced species, as reported by Figueroa and de los Ríos (2010) in Chilean Patagonia. Additional studies are necessary to confirm these hypotheses.

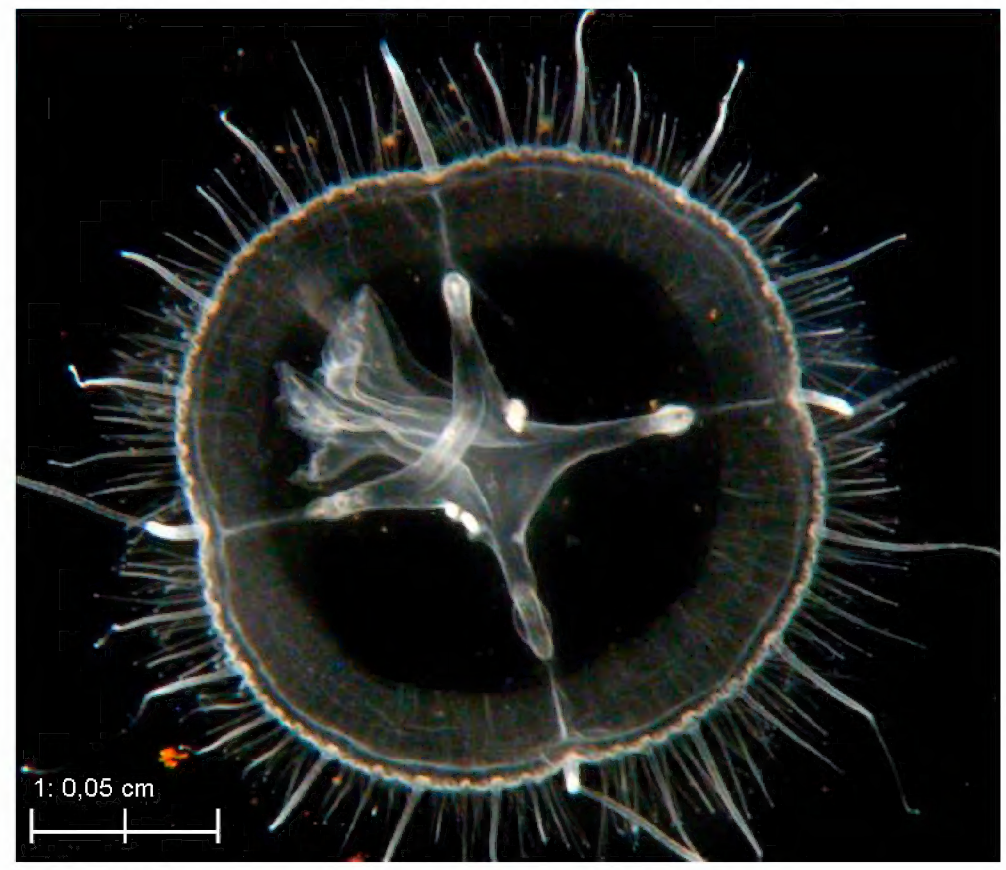

FIGURE 1. Aboral view of living medusa of *Craspedacusta sowerbii* Lankester, 1880, 10 days after sampling. Scale bar: 0.5 cm. Photo by Sergio N. Stampar (IB-USP).

FIGURE 2. Blue Lake in the municipality of Prados, Minas Gerais. Photo by Geraldo Napoleão de Souza.

The knowledge on the distribution pattern of *C. sowerbii* in Brazil requires further investigation. Reviews and more recent studies show that probably the actual distribution of the species in South America includes all countries of the Plata and the Amazon Basins (Vannucci and Tundisi 1962; Silva and Roche 2007). Records in Argentina, Chile and Venezuela are also reported (Silva and Roche 2007), indicating a distribution mainly in tropical and subtropical latitudes

This second record demonstrates the need of further studies in aquatic environments in the state of Minas Gerais in order to better comprehend the local fauna and its distribution.

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